

OF

On the Civil Service Reform.

These are wise words, and seem to have been inspired by a prophetic insight into the present condition of our country. It will be well that we give heed to them. Mr. Webster was no less emphatic in his denunciation of this system. In his speech at the National Convention at Worcester, October 12, 1832, he said:

And sir, who can resist this demand? Certainly, sir, the Democratic party neither can nor ought to resist it. Senators think that all this means nothing—the mere effect of the changing moods of a fickle and inconsistent populace; that the change demanded is mere swapping of one hungry brood of corrupt cormorants for another; that people, tired of Republican corruption and profligacy, only desire to give

may be the intent of its Republican supporters I am certain, sir, that will not be its effect. If such were its effect should certainly refuse it my support. The whole scheme of the bill requires that appointments to and retention in office shall be on the basis of merit alone. This scheme would be defeated if incumbents selected in disregard of merit were not dismissed. There is nothing in the bill which requires the retention of an officer appointed in violation of its provisions. But I think the judgment of that Senator is too harsh. I am sure, sir, there is just cause for the passage of this bill without help from unworthy motive, and surely sir, the good reason for its support by Republican Senators, since for the want of support they have suffered so serious a defeat. And there is equal reason for its support by Senators on this side of the aisle.

Mr. President, there are one or two amendments, which in my judgment should be made to the bill. In the first place, I regard it as a serious if not insurmountable objection that it requires all original appointments to office to be made in the highest grade, though the applicant may be found entirely competent for a higher one. I see no just reason for this provision, and mean against

Mr. President, it is also objected that this bill prescribes no limited tenure of office. I regard that as one of its great merits. To sustain this view I quote from the report of Mr. Culhoun before alluded to:

As connected with this portion of the inquiry, your committee cannot avoid alluding to the practice of the British

Girton College, the Cambridge University about to be enlarged, and the new buildings have drafted and submitted to